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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Burundi: draft resolution

Emergency assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of Burundi

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/17 of 3 November 1993, 49/7 of 25 October 1994, 49/21 C of 2 December 1994 and 50/58 K of 22 December 1995,

Endorsing the principles of humanitarian assistance as set forth in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Fully aware that Burundi is suffering severely from the cumulative effects of its prolonged national crisis, landlocked situation, status as a least developed country and overpopulation,

Deeply concerned at the widespread and disastrous consequences of the economic sanctions imposed against Burundi for the national economy, public finances and agricultural production and for the health and the education, at all levels, of its population,

Noting the seriousness of the alarming effects of economic sanctions on humanitarian operations and assistance intended to provide relief to the most

[1] A/51/464.

vulnerable social groups, particularly the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, the tens of thousands of returnees, the sick, women, children and the elderly,

Seriously fearing that the economic situation as a whole may deteriorate and that epidemics may worsen and become widespread as a result of the lack of fuel for hospitals, health-care centres, the transportation of medical personnel and the treatment of drinking water,

Anxious to find possible means of removing any obstacles which may hinder the launching of a negotiating process for lasting peace and security,

Welcoming the formal commitment made by the Government of Burundi to negotiate with all parties to the conflict, including the armed factions, at the invitation of the facilitator and with the consent of the rebel camp to cooperate and participate in the negotiations,

1. Renews the expression of its gratitude and congratulations to all States, United Nations institutions and intergovernmental, non-governmental and humanitarian organizations for their respective contributions to the implementation of resolution 50/58 K;

2. Appeals to Burundi's neighbouring countries urgently to lift the economic blockade imposed against it on 31 July 1996, in order to put an end to the terrible suffering thereby inflicted on the people of Burundi and on the entire national economy;

3. Urgently appeals to all States, the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies substantially to increase their economic, financial, material and technical contributions;

4. Urges the international community, in particular, the States Members of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, to show greater concern for and generosity towards the social groups in Burundi most seriously affected by the general economic embargo, namely, displaced persons, returnees, the sick, women, children and the elderly;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General in consultation with all those concerned, including the neighbouring States, other Member States, the Organization of African Unity and international humanitarian organizations, to establish mechanisms to ensure the safe and timely delivery of humanitarian relief throughout Burundi, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1072 (1996) of 30 April 1996;

6. Calls upon all Burundian parties to the conflict strictly to refrain from any act likely to hinder or complicate humanitarian operations and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the intended recipients;

7. Vigorously condemns the murderers of the three staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross and any act that jeopardizes the safety of both national and international humanitarian personnel;

8. Instructs the Secretary-General, together with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and in close cooperation with him, to coordinate efforts within the United Nations system to alleviate the severe shortages in Burundi and to mobilize and provide large-scale assistance from the international community to the people of Burundi, who are threatened with economic strangulation;

9. Recommends that the United Nations Development Programme initiate contacts with donors at the level of States and with potential donor agencies, with a view to organizing a round table on Burundi in the near future;

10. Urges the Government of Burundi and all other parties to the conflict to launch as soon as possible a negotiating process leading to the restoration of peace and security and to national reconciliation, which are prerequisites for the strengthening of humanitarian assistance and for overall economic recovery;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to present an ad hoc report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

12. Decides to re-examine the progress of special emergency assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of Burundi at its fifty-second session.